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YOUNG AVENGERS®

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YOUNG AVENGERS

FAMILY MATTERS

PART TWO

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When an idealistic 30th-century teenager discovers he is destined to become the time-traveling despot known as KANG THE CONQUEROR, he travels back to the 21st century to enlist the aid of Kang's greatest adversaries, THE AVENGERS.

However, when young Kang arrives in the present, he is stunned to learn that the Avengers have disbanded. With nowhere to turn, he uses his futuristic armor to break into Stark Industries where he downloads the programming and data files of the decommissioned android Avenger THE VISION.

Discovering a fail-safe program of the Vision's designed to pinpoint the exact locations of the next wave of Avengers, young Kang puts together a new team of super-powered teens, who, in an homage to the original Avengers, present themselves to the world as their would-be teenage sidekicks

Dubbed "The Young Avengers" by the press, IRON LAD, PATRIOT, WICCAN, and HULKLING are soon joined by STATURE (Cassie Lang, the daughter of the recently deceased ANT-MAN) and KATE BISHOP, a resourceful teenage Avengers fan who saved the team's life during one of their early adventures.

After a recent battle against the Avengers' longtime adversary MISTER HYDE, Patriot, the team leader, is forced to reveal he does not have super powers. Attempting to live up to the legend of his grandfather, the fabled "Black Captain America," Patriot confesses to using mutant growth hormone, a steroid, instead. Ashamed, Patriot quits the team.

When the Young Avengers attempt to convince Patriot to rejoin, their efforts are cut short by THE SUPER-SKRULL--an alien shape-shifter with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four--who abducts Hulkling, claiming he is the Skrull Empire's only hope.

YOUNG AVENGERS created by Allan Heinberg and Jim Cheung

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HOW MANY MORE GAMES MUST WE PLAY?

BEFORE I ASK YOU TO STOP LETTING ME WIN?

BEFORE THE AVENGERS ALLOW ME TO ACCOMPANY THEM ON MISSIONS.

I'M SURE ONCE YOU'VE PASSED THE REQUISITE TESTS, MASTER VISION--

I HAVE PASSED THE TESTS, MISTER JARVIS.

--AND COMPLETED THE RIGOROUS TRAINING PROGRAM--

I CONFESS I DIDN'T FIND IT THAT RIGOROUS.

IN FACT, MR. STARK OBSERVED THAT MY NEURO-KINETIC ARMOR IS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT OVER THE PREVIOUS VISION'S SYNTHEZOID FORM.

THEN I'M SURE MR. STARK IS SIMPLY EXERCISING DUE CAUTION--

IN CASE I'M STILL CONTROLLED BY KANG THE CONQUEROR?

OR PERHAPS HE'S AFRAID I MAY DECIDE TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THE WORLD GOVERNMENTS BY TAKING OVER THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEMS?

SOMEONE'S BEEN READING UP ON HIS OWN *HISTORY.*

AND ATTEMPTING TO **LEARN** FROM IT BY INSTALLING THE APPROPRIATE **FAIL-SAFES.**

CHECKMATE.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

OH, DEAR...

CAN WE COME IN?

THE SUPER-SKRULL...?

HE KIDNAPPED TEDDY, MURDERED TEDDY'S MOM, AND DESTROYED MY PARENTS' APARTMENT.

MY MOTHER IS FREAKING.

WE NEED THE AVENGERS, MR. JARVIS.

I'M AFRAID THE AVENGERS ARE AWAY ON A MISSION...

THANKS, JARVIS.

...AND AT THIS POINT, THE ONLY ONE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER IS TEDDY, YES?

NO! FOR ALL WE KNOW, THE SUPER-SKRULL COULD BE PLANNING A FULL-SCALE ASSAULT.

NOT LIKELY, LAD. NOT BY HIMSELF.

MR. JARVIS, ARE YOU GOING TO CONTACT THE AVENGERS OR NOT?

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE--

C'MON, KATE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

I SUGGEST YOU MAKE TIME, MASTER WICCAN...

...BEFORE ANY MORE LIVES ARE LOST.

PERHAPS I CAN HELP.

YES...

...YOU CAN KEEP AN EYE ON OUR GUESTS, WHILE I ENDEAVOR TO CONTACT MISTER STARK.

I MEANT--

THANK YOU, MASTER VISION.

JARVIS IS RIGHT.

THERE ARE ONLY *FOUR* OF US.

FIVE, INCLUDING ME.

FIVE, INCLUDING THE VISION.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WE NEED *MORE*.

WHAT IF I COULD LOCATE MORE?

MORE AVENGERS?

NO...

...MORE YOUNG AVENGERS.

THOMAS SHEPHERD. SIXTEEN YEARS OLD. SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

WHAT'S HIS SPECIALTY?

ACCORDING TO THE AVENGERS FAIL-SAFE PROGRAM, HE'S A SPEEDSTER.

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO? OUTRUN THE SUPER-SKRULL?

WHO'S NEXT ON THE LIST?

THOMAS CAN ALSO USE HIS SPEED TO ACCELERATE AND DESTABILIZE ATOMIC MATTER.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

IT MEANS HE CAN BLOW STUFF UP.

LET'S GO GET HIM.

BUT MR. JARVIS SAID--

JARVIS SAID YOU SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON US.

SO, ARE YOU COMING OR NOT?

SOMETHING WRONG, CASSIE?

NO...IT'S JUST...

ELI SAYS YOU HAVE IRON LAD'S...BRAIN PATTERNS...HIS MEMORIES...

YES.

BUT YOU'RE NOT IRON LAD.

ARE YOU?

HE AND I HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, BUT...

...NO.

IT'S JUST THAT YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HIM.

AND THAT UPSETS YOU?

PERHAPS IF I ALTER MY APPEARANCE...

ACTUALLY...

...THAT DOES KINDA HELP.

"VISION, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?"

ELI, RELAX. IT'S JUST JUVIE.
"JUST JUVIE"?
I WANTED A YOUNG AVENGER. NOT A YOUNG MASTER OF EVIL.
YOU WANTED SOMEONE POWERFUL.
WHY IS THOMAS HERE?
ACCIDENTALLY?
HE ACCIDENTALLY VAPORIZED HIS SCHOOL.
ACCORDING TO HIS ATTORNEYS.
IN THIS HOLOGRAPHIC FORM, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE HIM WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.
VISION, WAIT...
...I'M GOING WITH YOU.
SO AM I.
JUST IN CASE.
AND WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
WAIT HERE.
AND DO WHAT?
IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU TO COME UP WITH A CODENAME.
YOU DON'T LIKE "HAWKINGBIRD"?
DON'T EVEN START.

SO, WHAT *ELSE* DO WE KNOW ABOUT THOMAS SHEPHERD?

HIS PARENTS ARE FRANK AND MARY. DIVORCED.

WHAT ABOUT HIS POWERS?

IF HE CAN BLOW THINGS UP, WHY HASN'T HE *ESCAPED?*

I ASSUME HIS CELL IS EQUIPPED WITH A POWER DAMPENER.

BUT ONCE I OVERRIDE ITS SECURITY SETTINGS, HE SHOULD RETURN TO--

ZZZZT ZZZZT

--NORMAL--

BOOM

AEEE

WOAH...

...YOU GUYS COULD BE...*TWINS.*

WAIT...

AEEE

OY...

LOOK AT ALL OF THEM.

ARMED GUARDS, FEDERAL AGENTS, MANDROIDS...

...THIS IS GOING TO BE *FUN.*

THEY'VE KEPT ME LOCKED UP FOR *MONTHS*...

...*TESTING* ME...

...*PROBING* ME...

...TRYING TO TURN ME INTO A LIVING *WEAPON.*

WELL, CONGRATULATIONS, OFFICERS...

...IT *WORKED.*

TOMMY, STOP! THERE ARE PEOPLE INSIDE.

I'VE GOT THEM, CASS.

STAY WITH TOMMY...

"...MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T HURT ANYONE *ELSE.*"

ONE LAST *TEST*, DOCTOR...

...TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH I CAN ACCELERATE YOUR ATOMIC STRUCTURE...

...BEFORE IT *EXPLODES.*

DOWN, BOY.

YOUNG AVENGERS DON'T *KILL.*

EXCEPT IRON LAD, THAT ONE TIME.

YOU LOOK *JUST* LIKE--

SO I'VE BEEN TOLD.

WHO ARE *YOU?*

I-- I'M--

SEE, THIS IS WHEN HAVING A *CODENAME* WOULD COME IN HANDY.

HE LOOKS *JUST* LIKE--

I KNOW.

WOULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING *ON?*

YOU'RE BEING *RECRUITED.*

HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND *OUT* ABOUT ME?

THE AVENGERS FAIL-SAFE PROGRAM. LET'S GO. I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY.

WICCAN, WAIT.

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FREE A SUPER-POWERED TEENAGE *TERRORIST.*

WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE A SUPER HERO.

SO, WHAT'S IT GOING TO *BE?*

THIS IS KL'RT--*THE SUPER-SKRULL*--TRANSMITTING TO ALL SKRULL MEMBER-WORLDS.

I HAVE RECOVERED DORREK VIII.

I REPEAT: DORREK VIII, THE EMPEROR'S HEIR IN MY CUSTODY ON EARTH.

IF ANYONE CAN HEAR ME--

SUPER-SKRULL, *STOP*...

...I'M *NOT* A SKRULL.

YOU *ARE*, MY LIEGE. I AM *CERTAIN* OF IT.

HOW?

"BECAUSE THE YEAR YOU WERE BORN, I ABDUCTED THE SCARLET WITCH, QUICKSILVER, AND THE KREE CAPTAIN MAR-VELL, HOPING TO WIN THE EMPEROR'S FAVOR...

"...*AND* THE HAND OF HIS DAUGHTER, *ANELLE*.

"CONVINCED I INTENDED TO *USURP* HIM, THE EMPEROR *IMPRISONED* ME.

"MONTHS LATER, I HEARD RUMORS THAT ANELLE, THOUGH UNMARRIED, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A MALE HATCHLING.

"AND THAT WHEN THE EMPEROR DISCOVERED THE IDENTITY OF THE HATCHLING'S *FATHER*, HE CONDEMNED THE INFANT TO *DEATH*.

"BUT BEFORE THE DEATH SENTENCE COULD BE CARRIED OUT...

"...THE PRINCE'S *NURSE* FERRIED THE CHILD *OFF-WORLD*..."

...TO REUNITE HIM WITH HIS *FATHER.*

WHO *WAS* MY FATHER?

YOU DO BELIEVE ME...

NO, I...

...I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.

BE ASSURED, I WILL NOT REST UNTIL YOU HAVE *RECLAIMED* YOUR THRONE AND *REUNIFIED* THE SKRULL MEMBER-WORLDS.

BUT EVEN IF WHAT YOU SAY IS *TRUE*...

...I CAN'T LEAVE *EARTH.*

FORGIVE ME, YOUR HIGHNESS...

...BUT I *INSIST.*

EH...?

BOOOM

I KNOCKED, BUT NOBODY ANSWERED.

WHO DARES...?

BILLY...?

NOPE.

DO WE REALLY LOOK THAT MUCH ALIKE?

I'M HERE, TED. DON'T WORRY. WE'LL--

FWOOSH

KL'RT, NO!

TOMMY, STAND BACK.

DON'T WORRY...

...THE SUPER-SKRULL SITUATION...

...IS UNDER...

...CONTROL.

THOMAS!

I'VE GOT HIM.

THEN LEAVE THE SUPER-SKRULL TO ME.

AND WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ME, WRAITH?

I CAN SOLIDIFY MY HAND INSIDE YOUR CHEST CAVITY JUST ENOUGH...

...TO RENDER YOU UNCONSCIOUS.

HOW'D YOU FIND ME?

LOCATING SPELL.

CAN WE GO NOW?

...I THINK MY NOSE IS BROKEN.

YOUR HIGHNESS, WAIT...

...YOUR PEOPLE--YOUR FAMILY--NEED YOU.

WHAT FAMILY?

MY MOTHER?

TED, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IT'S OKAY. HE WON'T HURT ME.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR MOTHER WAS KILLED WHEN GALACTUS CONSUMED THE SKRULL THRONE-WORLD.

WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER?

YOUR FATHER...?

AUGGGH!

KL'RT!!!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, CHILD.

THE SUPER-SKRULL WILL NOT HARM YOU--OR *ANYONE*--EVER AGAIN.

THE KREE ARMY PROTECTS ITS *OWN*...

...AND YOU ARE ONE OF *US*.

TO BE CONTINUED...

EMPIRE
ZONE
EMPIRE
ZONE
KL!Z8